



Birchanger Village Magazine



January 2022

Issue 228



Congratulations Birchanger, You Did It Again 'The Light Fantastic'

Another 'Birchanger Christmas Light Up' to remember. Just when we thought it couldn't get any better it just did. Particularly outstanding this year were the smaller houses whose owners made spectacular individual displays in their own gardens but when joined together with their neighbours appeared to look like one enormous fantastic display.

The houses in Birchanger Lane were again outstanding and caused the usual Christmas traffic jam of sightseers. There were (and still are) many remarkable displays in the side roads which more than merit a visit. If you haven't already been out there to see them for yourselves, there is still time and they are really well worth seeing.

Even so, there was a cup to be won and the team of judges had to agree on a winner, not an easy task, but after hours of deliberation unanimous agreement was finally reached. Congratulations go to the winners Jason & Annette Grunwell of 68 Birchanger Lane. In 2nd place were Paul & Lisa Moss. 253 Birchanger Lane and last but certainly not least in 3rd place were David and Christine Tanner of 238 Birchanger lane. Well done to all our winners but also to the whole of Birchanger who lit up Christmas in such a sensational way.

Winner of the 2021 Christmas Light Up - Jason & Annette Grunwell of 68 Birchanger Lane



2nd place - Paul & Lisa Moss. 253 Birchanger Lane



3rd place David and Christine Tanner of 238 Birchanger lane



Don't forget, your magazine is only as good as the content it receives, so please keep sending me your news, views, notices, concerns and complaints. Advertisers are also welcome. All copy should be submitted by the 16th of the month, preferably sooner and may be edited depending on space and content. Please contact me by E-mail, phone, or letter as shown below. Thank you and Kind Regards,

Join us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/birchanger/

Peter Sampson



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07817 904333



2 Harrisons, Birchanger

VILLAGE NEWS

By Elizabeth Godwin

Parish Councillors Pushed Beyond Their Limits

People have on the whole little expectations of their Parish Councillors, but they still expect them to do extraordinary things. Council members have been asked to do a multitude of tasks in their time; from unblocking ditches, tree work, hedging, salting the roads, clearing public footpaths, and fixing park play equipment, to name but a few, all of which have actually happened in Birchanger over the years. Officially, Parish Councillors can do none of these tasks for the simple reason that they are uninsured and untrained to do so. Yes, there are Parish Councillors who may have the requisite skills, but they do not have the authority or insurance to conduct any form of public works. Yet there are many people who expect them to do just that. If anything happened who would be liable?

Parish Councillors are mainly reporting the work needed to the relevant authority then fighting until the job is done. When they see something is wrong, they can arrange for it to be put right. When it takes time for the work to be done, they can only apply pressure to try to get the work done. They monitor planning applications, footpaths, bridleways, play areas, allotments, lighting, and roads to name but a few and do their best to try to get the right result quickly. The Parish Council pays for additional police presence in the village, arranges for speed watch and does its best to ensure in many different ways that the residents can live in a safe and attractive environment. So please, give your parish councillors a little credit – they do not get paid and if you really have something to say or want to make a difference why don't you get involved and become a parish councillor yourself? I'm always available to discuss how you can do this.

Dreading the School Holidays?

There are some excellent children's clubs catering for a variety of ages all over Essex. Not only can they look after your children all day, but most of them feed them as well and some will be entitled to free school meals. Opportunities for fun are there from the moment the child arrives. You can find out more about the clubs and their locations at Info@kidzactive.co.uk. or contact Laura Dickinson at laura.dickinson@activeessex.org. There is one in Stansted at the Leisure Centre. Many children are eligible for free meals while they are at the centres and there are several with special needs facilities throughout the district.

Birchanger All Girls Society

The 'BAGS' welcome women of all ages to join them on the last Wednesday of every month in the village church hall. Next meeting is our AGM on Wednesday January 26th 7.45. If you are interested in joining BAGS please call or email us:

bags@birchanger.com

Olivia: 07568 574703

Rosemary: 01279 814678

Beware of The Cold Callers

After a particularly busy day, I was caught out the other night! I answered the door, not thinking about who might be on the other side. I instantly realised my mistake when the young man in front of me claimed to have something to sell but had nothing to show me? He told me to wait as he had left it in the car. Cue the laughs of his supporters in the car lurking behind the hedge. Coming to my senses, I managed to get back inside and close the door behind me. However, the young man showed his displeasure by ripping off the doorbell before re-joining his support squad in the car. They left presumably to try their luck elsewhere in the village. What little I gained from the encounter was that this young man came from the Midlands with a group of so-called mates. In retrospect, I concluded that they were most likely the so called 'Nottingham Knockers'. This is not the first time that people in Birchanger and surrounding villages have been harassed and bullied in this way. Some have handed over cash and other valuables just to get rid of them. The police have been called but they are always too busy to attend or to do anything about it. The trouble will come when Birchanger residents, fed up with this unchecked and intimidating behaviour take matters into their own hands. Without police support they feel that they have no choice. This trouble must be stopped now before it is too late. Up to now it has been traffic which has been the main source of trouble in the Birchanger, now we appear to have a new menace. Not the best way to start the New Year.

Don't be Fooled by Rogue Vehicle Tax Renewal Websites

You pop on the PC and Google 'Renew Vehicle Tax' and you are sent to what appears to be the official DVLC website. Except you're not! There are several lookalike sites which seem to have the right logo, but which will charge you £30 and upwards for the privilege. You won't realise it until you have paid the vehicle tax licence fee and by then then it's too late to do anything about it. The safest way to renew your vehicle tax, driving licence, or passport etc., is to use the official Government website <https://www.gov.uk/> and search from there.

Are Your Elderly Neighbours OK?

It is the darkest, coldest time of the year. Once Christmas is over, older or lonely people tend to hunker down in their own homes. Death rates of the elderly and those living alone are at their highest at this time of year. Suicide rates among single men rise and a lot of this could be prevented with a little more communication. People in those circumstances are very unlikely to tell anyone they need help. It is for the fitter amongst us to try to do it for them. If you make a point of talking to someone you suspect might be struggling! You could be making their life a little more bearable and less tough.

Christmas Heroes

Or in this case a heroine and the organiser of the first Christmas Feast of the Season. Pam Lee produced a fantastic Christmas Lunch with all the trimmings for 40 guests in the Village Hall to get the Christmas Season off to a great start. Everybody enjoyed themselves whatever their age. The youngsters were particularly impressed when Father Christmas came calling. Thank you Pam.

Birchanger Poppy Appeal Brings In £633 for the British Legion

Another unsung hero, Mick McGahan, has taken over the role of organiser for the British Legion Poppy Appeal in Birchanger. Next year the Poppy Appeal will look vastly different. Instead of cash all you will need to do will be to tap your credit card on the specially designed tin to make your donation. Hopefully, this will make the task of collecting a lot easier and the legion may even get higher donations, after all we tend to be more generous with our money when using a credit card! Well done Mike

New Year, New Ways

And this includes a new way to contact Uttlesford District Council. It is so simple that it is surprising it has not been used before. You can now text UDC and if they are not too busy you will find yourself in a live chat about the matter you needed to contact the council about. Hopefully, this is another way to get some help with ongoing problems. And this time it is free. What happens if there are a lot of people trying to text the council at the same time? Back to the telephone queue?

Extreme New Year's Resolution

On New Year's Day lots of people plunge themselves into icy water in such places as the Isle of White, Blackpool, the Thames, or Serpentine to name but a few. The majority of us think they are mad and return to our New Year's Day hangovers but there is method in their collective madness. Wild water swimming is definitely not for everyone. People with heart conditions, lung disease, general ill health need to be very careful about this kind of exercise and the rule for everyone is never to attempt a wild swim alone. Wild water swimmers are able to stay healthier than the average person. Wild water swimming is definitely not for everyone but there are other things for the rest of us to try. Apparently, 'cold' is good for us. We can achieve better resistance to disease through thirty seconds a day in a cold shower. We can turn the heating down a few degrees and wear warmer clothes in the house. We can go for a walk everyday no matter how cold it is. In fact, just generally try to toughen up. Not tempted? I'm inclined to agree. However, I do try to walk - well most days.

Now You Can Recycle Soft Plastics



Soft plastics are exactly what they say on the tin; plastic bags, or sheets which you cannot put in your green bin so every week they end up in the black bin in droves. Now Sainsbury's, Tesco's and the Co-op have bins outside their stores for these bags. They will be recycled into food packaging and the cycle begins all over again. Watch out for these special recycling bins and use them where you can.

January Blues? Try The Brasserie in Stansted

We are spoilt for choice in Birchanger with the pub and club, both good and easy access, but for a very special night out you could try the Brasserie in Lower Street Stansted. The food is good. Not entirely plain cooking but good ingredients are used. Items like sole and lobster are not cheap, but they were very good. Two courses are really enough, but with a very tempting dessert menu, it was too easy to succumb. There is a wine list to suit most tastes. If there was anything to criticise, the food was perhaps left too long in the oven or a warm place. It was slightly over cooked. A minor irritant was the door curtain hanging by three hooks, which was necessary with the constantly opening main entrance door. The restaurant appears to supply the wine bar next door with food so there is enhanced coming and going as dishes are delivered across. It was a shame that there was no other exit that could be used. Verdict. Not cheap but a good venue for special occasions or when you just fancy a special meal.

Road Deaths in Essex are Soaring

Someone is killed or seriously injured every 20 minutes on Britain's roads. Most of these incidents are unnecessary and are caused by plain and simple bad driving. We have all experienced it, even without leaving Birchanger Lane, as other drivers push us up against the hedge or kerb on the bends. They drive so fast that they need to brake suddenly at every bend or obstruction and take up most of the lane while they do so – and that is just in our Lane. What are they like when they reach the main road? 47 preventable deaths on Essex roads in 2020 is a shocking total and very hard for grieving families to attempt to come to terms with. Some selfish bad driver has stopped a life and ruined a family for ever. All motorists need to attempt to take stock of their own driving skills. You may think you are a good driver, but would you pass your test if you had to take it again? Could you even attempt the written paper? What you can do is to remember how you drove when you first took your test and with your current car, attempt to emulate your pre-test self, or better still, book in for an advanced motorist course. Somehow that shocking total of deaths in 2020 must not happen in 2022. We do not mean to kill, but every driver has a potentially lethal weapon in their hands so take care!

Archaeology in Essex

Most people don't expect Essex to be a County rich in Archaeology, but it has many sites which were undiscovered until the builders moved in. Then there is a race against time for the archaeologists to do their work before the developers take over. Sites currently being worked on include excavating a late Iron Age village at Cressing which may have been levelled by the Romans in the aftermath of the Boudicca revolt. There are also Roman salt making and fish processing sites in Thurrock. Harlow has a site where there is evidence of occupation from the Neolithic to the Medieval Period. Essex was nearly all covered in trees of which only Hatfield and Epping Forest remain. Both these forests were popular hunting grounds for mediaeval kings and queens. More on the History of Essex can be found in the Essex Records Office which holds regular lectures on various aspects of Essex History throughout the year. Find out more at <https://www.essexrecordoffice.co.uk/>

ENVIRO ELECTRICAL SERVICES

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UDC Bin Collections

Normal Collection Day	Revised Collection Day	Which bins?
Tuesday 21 December	Monday 20 December	
Wednesday 22 December	Tuesday 21 December	
Thursday 23 December	Wednesday 22 December	
Friday 24 December	Thursday 23 December	

For Christmas week (w/c 20 December) we will be collecting your black-lidded waste bin and brown food waste caddy although please note that all collections will take place a day earlier than usual – see table below for your revised collection date.

Please note that we will not be collecting any bins in the week following Christmas (28 to 31 December).

Collections will return to normal from Tuesday 4 January 2022 when we will be collecting your green recycling bin and brown food waste caddy. If you have extra recycling, you can leave it beside your bin for collection. Please put your recycling in white or clear bags, or cardboard boxes. We cannot collect any recycling if it is in black bags.

Planned Road Closures Affecting Birchanger 2022

Temporary Traffic Regulation Order of Birchwood, Birchanger
Please use the following link:

<https://one.network/?tm=124364247> to find details of the intended closure of Birchwood, due to commence on 13th January 2022 for 1 day. The closure is required for the safety of the public and workforce while Openreach undertakes pole testing.

Temporary Traffic Regulation Order of Bishops Stortford Bypass, Dunmow Road & Birchanger Lane

Please use the following link:

<https://one.network/?tm=124360083> to find details of the intended closure of Bishops Stortford Bypass, Dunmow Road & Birchanger Lane, due to commence on 20th December 2021 for 365 days. The restriction is required for the safety of the public and workforce while Essex County Council undertakes widening and installation of traffic signage and streetlighting.

Temporary Traffic Regulation Order of Birchanger Roundabout, Birchanger

Please use the following link:

<https://one.network/?tm=122673809> to find details of the intended closure of Birchanger Roundabout, due to commence on 18th March 2022 for 60 days. The closure is required for the safety of the public and workforce while Essex County Council undertakes resurfacing



December 2021 Parish Council meeting

Planning

UTT/21/3511/HHF – 117 Birchanger Lane, Birchanger, Proposed conversion of garage/store to habitable space.
No objections.

Travellers Site

UDC has decided that they will not be seeking a judicial review. [Note: A full report of the meeting can be found in the December edition of the Birchanger Village Magazine. In addition, the letter from Peter Holt setting out UDC's position can be viewed on the Village website].

Footpath 15

The footpath has now been cleared, although some of the cut-down vegetation has been left in situ. There is some concern that after heavy rain this could cause a blockage. The clerk will contact Robin Wallbank from ECC Public Rights Of Way and ask that the vegetation be cleared.

Junction 8 roundabout improvements

The current plan is the same as previously in that, when the roundabout at the top of Birchanger Lane has been removed, residents will be allowed to cross the A120 in the direction of Dunmow Road. This crossing will be controlled by traffic lights. David Sprunt of Essex Highways has offered to attend a meeting with the parish council to explain the full plan.

Allotments and Recreation Ground

Estimates for repair to both sites have been received. It was suggested that the allotment gate be secured with a coded padlock. The code would be given to allotment holders. This was agreed and a suitable lock will be purchased.

Motor Cross track off Forest Hall Road

An area of land off Forest Hall Road has been designated as a motor cross track. Permission has been given for this use on 14 days each year. A group of local residents has advised that the track has been used many more times than this and has asked the Parish Council if it could intervene. The PC has contacted Sarah Marshall at UDC. She has responded advising that there had been staffing issues within the Planning Enforcement Team. The officer who covered the area in which this site falls, left in April of this year and the vacancy was only filled in September. As such there have been delays in dealing with cases such as this. The case has now been reallocated to the new case officer, Oliver Sear, who will be attending the site to view the situation.




Donation to Royal British Legion. A donation of £35 was agreed.

UDC Local Plan

Technical consultation. This has now been submitted and the parish council awaits the outcome. The next consultation is scheduled for March 2022.



What's on in the village...

		<h1>January 2022</h1>				
Bin Collections: Bradley Common collected on Fridays. Rest of Birchanger on Thursdays. Garden bin collections marked with #						
Birchanger Parish Council Meetings: Meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 7.30 pm in the church hall - Open to the public.						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
						
31 BSSC: Quiz Night					1 Church Hall: 09.00 Apton Dance Studio BSSC: 13.00 Meat draw	2 St Mary's Church: 11.15 am Matins BSSC: Sunday Roast
3 BSSC: 21.00 Quiz Night	4 Church hall: 12.00 Tap Dance 16.45 Ballet 18.30 Apton Dance Studio	5 Church hall: 10.00 Tai Chi 14.00 Tea Room 14.00 Fencing 18.00 Apton Dance Studio	6 Green Bin Church hall: 11.00 Line dance 18.30 Apton Dance Studio BSSC: 20.30 Bingo	7	8 Church Hall: 09.00 Apton Dance Studio BSSC: 13.00 Meat draw	9 St Mary's Church: 11.15 Holy Communion BSSC: Sunday Roast
10 BSSC: 21.00 Quiz Night	11 Church hall: 12.00 Tap Dance 16.45 Ballet 18.30 Apton Dance Studio	12 Church hall: 10.00 Tai Chi 14.00 Tea Room 14.00 Fencing 18.00 Apton Dance Studio	13 Black Bin # Church hall: 11.00 Line dance 18.30 Apton Dance Studio BSSC: 20.30 Bingo	14	15 Church Hall: 09.00 Apton Dance Studio BSSC: 13.00 Meat draw	16 St Mary's Church: 11.15 Family Service BSSC: Sunday Roast
17 BSSC: 21.00 Quiz Night	18 Church hall: 12.00 Tap Dance 16.45 Ballet 18.30 Apton Dance Studio	19 Church hall: 10.00 Tai Chi 14.00 Tea Room 14.00 Fencing 18.00 Apton Dance Studio	20 Green Bin Church hall: 11.00 Line Dance 18.30 Apton Dance Studio BSSC: 20.30 Bingo	21	22 Church Hall: 09.00 Apton Dance Studio BSSC: 13.00 Meat draw	23 St Mary's Church: 11.15 am Holy Communion BSSC: Sunday Roast
24 BSSC: 21.00 Quiz Night	25 Church hall: 12.00 Tap Dance 16.45 Ballet 18.30 Apton Dance Studio	26 Church hall: 10.00 Tai Chi 14.00 Tea Room 14.00 Fencing 18.00 Apton Dance Studio 19.30 BAGS	27 Black Bin # Church hall: 11.00 Line Dance 18.30 Apton Dance Studio BSSC: 20.30 Bingo	28	29 Church Hall: 09.00 Apton Dance Studio BSSC: 13.00 Meat draw	30 St Mary's Church: 11.15 am Matins BSSC: Sunday Roast



BIRCHANGER SPORTS
AND SOCIAL CLUB

NEWS FROM THE CLUB



Happy New Year!

A huge thank you to all of our valued members, guests and staff for supporting us in a very challenging 2021 and we're looking forward to welcoming you in 2022. We are busy planning lots of exciting events including beer festivals, The Queen's Jubilee and Summer Fête, Dog Shows, Our Christmas Spectacular...(watch this space!) as well as a whole host of regular weekend evening entertainment.

Membership renewals are now open and of course we welcome new members who can "try before you buy" so please do contact us for more information!

We are also on the lookout for new committee members, so if you'd like to help shape the future of our club, we'd love to hear from you!

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Membership benefits

- Reduced drink prices
- FREE regular entertainment
- Live sports
- Hot food

...Plus More!..

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

WHAT'S ON

Quiz Night

EVERY MONDAY NIGHT @ 9pm

Every Thursday at 8.30pm



OPENING HOURS

Monday	5-11pm	Kitchen Closed
Tuesday	5-11pm	Kitchen Closed
Wednesday	12-3pm/5-11pm	Food 12-2pm/5-9pm
Thursday	12-3pm/5-11pm	Food 12-2pm/5-9pm
Friday	12-11pm	Food 12-2pm/5-9pm
Saturday	12-11pm	Food 12-9pm
Sunday	12-11pm	Food 12-3pm

For all general enquiries

Telephone: 01279 813441 Email: club@birchanger.com

Website: www.birchangerclub.com

Follow us on Social Media

For all news and announcements





Birchanger Primary School

Hello From Wildcats' Class (Year 6)

Welcome from Wildcat class, we have been working on our learning skills since the start of the year. We have found it challenging coming into Year 6 however we told ourselves to keep going. It was tough, but we got there!

Maths

Overall maths was enjoyable and gave our minds a workout. We have stayed optimistic and blocked distractions (which are our tenacity targets).

These are some of the things that we have achieved in maths: fractions, decimals, SATs books, long division and multiplication, coordinates, BODMAS (brackets, order, division, multiplication, adding and subtraction), KFC (keep it flip it change it). Also, we have also revisited the four operations.

English

With English we've tried our hardest in all the areas we have covered. We regularly practise our handwriting and warm up our brains with 'Four from Before.' For Remembrance Day we created 'Poppy Poems' and have them displayed in our classroom, some of the titles include A Solemn Soul, Remember the Dead and Blossom. In English we have something called a Hot Task, which is where we produce a piece of work after many lessons on that specific subject, this helps us by increasing our vocabulary and putting in to practice what we have learnt. We have written Hot Tasks for fact files, persuasive texts, and suspense narrative.

Other subjects

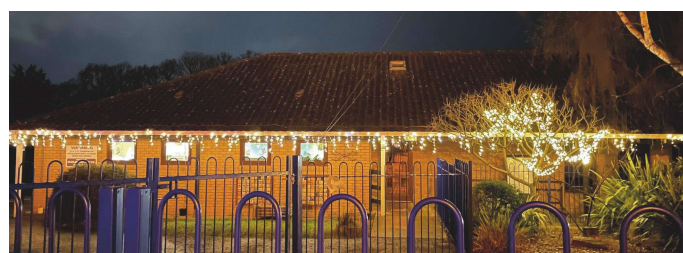
In other subjects we have also been very busy. We have really enjoyed making stockings by stitching felt in Design and Technology and in music we have been practising ready to perform at a Young Voices concert. Dissecting a lamb's heart in science, some people found amazing while others thought it was revolting. We have talked about racism in RE as well as PSHE. We all strongly believe that racism should be stopped all around the world. Other topics we have covered since the start of the term include the Romans, the rainforest and in French, money.

So far in year 6, we have had a good time and have especially enjoyed helping and playing with our buddies in Dragonfly Class during lunch and break. We have used our school values of love, care, courage and truth in all that we do and we look forward to next term.

To the right of the page are some photos of the nativity held by our younger children and the lights on the school gates.

Thank you and a happy New Year to you all.

Claire Berry - Headteacher





FLY LESS!

To coincide with the start of the COP26 international climate change summit in Glasgow last month, Stansted Airport Watch ('SAW') launched a "Fly Less" campaign which is being publicised on the SAW website and social media, and supported by posters and car window stickers.



In addition, SAW has written to the chairmen of the top 100 UK companies, encouraging businesses to play their part in combatting climate change by reducing business flights. First and Business Class flights have a far

higher carbon footprint than economy class, and private business jets can be up to ten times more damaging, in terms of emissions per passenger kilometre. In 2019 aviation accounted for 9.4% of UK carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions and is predicted to be the largest single source of UK CO2 emissions by 2050. In the same year, Heathrow was identified as the UK's largest single source of CO2 emissions and Stansted was said to be the largest single source of CO2 emissions in the East of England.

Importantly, aviation has a climate warming impact far in excess of that caused by the CO2 alone. The overall impact of aircraft emissions at high altitudes, including nitrogen and sulphur oxides, aerosols and contrails, is estimated to be two to four times the impact of the CO2 emissions.

The Government's independent Climate Change Committee has called for a freeze on UK airport expansion until the aviation industry can show a significant reduction in its emissions. To date, the Government has rejected this call and for the time being is putting its faith in technological solutions.

SAW Chairman, Brian Ross, commented: "This is not about telling people that they must not fly or that they cannot have a well-deserved annual family holiday. This is about asking people and businesses to try to reduce their carbon footprint. The train is often a realistic alternative to a domestic flight and a Zoom meeting can often avoid the need for a business flight. It doesn't require a huge change in lifestyle to make a meaningful reduction in your carbon footprint."



THE FORGOTTEN GARDENS OF EASTON LODGE

After the Christmas and New Year break our focus at the Gardens quickly moves on to the jobs we need to get done before our snowdrop season and to the preparation for the rest of the year. Our first jobs in the new year are to finish winter pruning and tree planting. We have planted many apple and pear trees in the walled kitchen garden, which need to be pruned in the winter to keep them in good shape and productive. The soft fruit bushes and autumn raspberries also need pruning in January or early February.

We have also been planting specimen trees to extend the range of our collection. More flowering cherries, acers and sorbus, amongst others. But many of the trees in the Gardens were planted in Victorian times and some cannot expect to last for ever. So, increasingly, we are also thinking about succession planting, new for old. And our archivist is planning to produce more guides to our trees for visitors.



We will also be working on our deadhedging around the edge of the Gardens. Unfortunately, the hedging is unlikely to be good enough to keep out the local deer population, so we will still need to have wire cages around tender plants and accept that we may not see our early iris reticulata, which the deer seem to find particularly tasty. But we are hopeful that better deadhedging in some places will act as an extra barrier to cold winds and frosts and tidy up the rough edges of the Gardens. We have quite a few maintenance jobs to get on with too. We hope there will be no down time but our work in January is very much determined by the weather, whether it is icy, wet, or beautifully sunny and it can be any of those!

Our snowdrop open days are planned for Sunday 13, Thursday 17, Sunday 20 and Thursday 24 February. Tickets will be available by mid-January. We take on new volunteers year-round, so why not think about joining us as a volunteer? We are always looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help with gardening, carpentry, cake baking etc. There is more information on our website: www.eastonlodge.co.uk.

Jill Goldsmith, December 2021



The Hundred Parishes Society

Hundreds of prisoner of war camps were set up in the UK during the two World Wars, with several in The Hundred Parishes. Camps varied in design and size. Some started as rows of tents with the prisoners engaged in constructing huts. Most have disappeared but I would like to tell you about a few.



Dunmow: The Close

In 1917, during the First World War, a camp was established at Great Dunmow's workhouse, initially taking about 100 German POWs. Capacity was later doubled by moving women elsewhere and closing the infirmary. The German prisoners worked on local farms but gained a reputation for obstruction and destruction. Dunmow workhouse never reopened and was converted to the housing that today is called The Close.



Bower Hall in Steeple Bumpstead was used as a POW camp in The First World War but it fell into ruin and was demolished in 1926. Wynches POW camp in Much Hadham was situated in forty acres of parkland and in the Second World War housed both Italian and German prisoners. Ickleton Grange housed a camp for both Italian and German men. Nothing now remains.

In Mill Lane, Hatfield Heath, the remains of POW camp 116 are still clearly visible, the most complete survivor in Essex, Herts, or Cambridgeshire. The camp was set up in 1941 to house Austrian and Italian prisoners; later, German men followed. They worked on local farms and even played football against a Hatfield Heath team who were beaten 11-0!



Hatfield Heath: Camp 116



Karl Weschke statue, © copyright Saffron Walden Museum

Radwinter North POW rehabilitation camp was situated in the grounds of Radwinter Rectory, now known as Radwinter Manor. German soldiers were allowed to visit local families.

Karl Weschke was one; he became an artist and his clay sculpture of a weeping mother and child titled "Deutschland 1946" and is held in Saffron Walden Museum.

Ken McDonald, Secretary www.hundredparishes.org.uk



P. D. Tucker & P. Stapleton

Hazel End Road, Hazel End, Bps Stortford, Herts CM23 1HB

Tel: 01279 813429

Mon-Sat: 12noon - 3pm & 6 - 11pm

Sunday: 12noon - 3pm

Village Services and Activities

Alzheimer	Marian	07803 115826
Art Studio & Gallery	Heather Brown	01279 815453
Art Studio & Gallery	Brian Gough	01279 815012
Ballroom Dance	Fred Winters	01763 271942
Ballet for kids	Philippa McMeechan	01763 271010
BAGS	Rosemary Wheatley	01279 814678
Beauty Therapist	Sarah Whiting	07887 638359
Birchanger Magazine	Peter Sampson	07817 904333
Birchanger Voices	Tony Wilson	01279 813007
Birchanger Nursery	Karen Reilly	01279 810800
Bird Food	Lesley Robins	01279 812248
BSSC Club	Terry Earnshaw	01279 813441
Car Service, MOT, Gas	D. Bonney	01279 813315
Car Service - Mobile	B. K. Autos	07786 461813
Chiropodist	Julie Golden	01279 873492
Dance - Apton Studio	Maxine Williams	07854 251528
Dementia	Debbie Baker	07927 011345
Garden Services	GWB Horticulture	01799 543483
Hairdresser Men/Boys	Emma Marks	07527 227943
Holistic therapy/Reflexology	Shelley Williams	07476 279262
Landscaping Services	Mark Taylor	07941 357934
Launderette	Ian Kennedy	01279 866183
Line Dancing	Shelley	01279 864781
Neighbourhood Watch	Peter Sampson	07817 904333
Over 60's club	Jean Camp	07843 707249
Painting & Décor	David Debnam	07973 861268
Parish Clerk	Keith Williams	01279 814773
Petals Children's Play	Hana Hainsby	07730 619522
Police Special	Martin Halls	Martin.Halls@essex.police.uk
Public Safety	Peter Sampson	07817 904333
Speed Watch	Peter Sampson	07817 904333
St. Mary's Church	Pam Lee	07702 171744
Tai Chi	Cait Goddard	07415 628935
The Three Horseshoes	Paul & Paula	01279 813429
The Three Willows	Mark Boden	01279 815913
Village Church Hall	Cat Roberson	07827 685741

St. Mary's Church



Church Services - 11.15 am

2 nd January	Matins with Pam Lee
9 th January	Communion with Revd Helen
16 th January	Family Service with Hugh Mascetti
23 rd January	Communion Revd Colin Fairweather
30 th January	Matins with Peter Odrich

Church News

Instead of a bazaar we decided to do a festive lunch this year, so on the 27th November almost forty people sat down to an early Christmas dinner in the hall. A roast turkey dinner with all the trimmings followed by homemade Christmas pudding (some lovely comments about this, made to my mum's own recipe) and all gluten free. As you can see, (picture bottom left) Santa paid a visit and delivered presents to the children.

Some time ago the PCC agreed that the lighting in church needed improving and it was hoped that this could be done in time for the Carol Service in December. Plans were made and then the heaters started to play up. Fortunately we were able to raise the funds to do all the work needed and hopefully when you next visit you will be able to appreciate how bright it looks.

As far as we have been able throughout the pandemic, PCC members have tried to ensure that our church has remained open to all. On Remembrance Sunday attendance numbers were good and from the collection we were able to raise £99 for the Royal British Legion.

We wish you all a happy and Peaceful New Year

*Lord, Jesus Christ,
Help us to welcome, love and serve you
Teach us to know your truth and do your will
To acknowledge our faults and receive your mercy
Today, tomorrow and every day.
May the peace of the Angels and Shepherds
be with us all this Christmas time
Amen*

Future Events

8 th February	Coffee Morning at Moorswood
17 th April	Easter Lunch in the Hall
17 th May	Coffee Morning

Pam Lee (Church Warden)
Tel: 07702 171744
pam.mark2@btinternet.com



St. Mary's Church Festive Lunch With Santa

Village Church Hall



For information and bookings contact:

Manager: Cat Roberson

Telephone: 07827685741

Email: birchangerhall@gmail.com

THE THREE WILLOWS

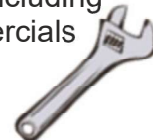


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